

A Shelter for Hope and Healing

For more information, or to make a donation:

Terebinth Refuge

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Helping women rebuild their lives with hope and dignity after sexual exploitation or trafficking.

# Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in St. Cloud

St. Cloud and its surrounding communities are known by local law enforcement to have high demand for commercial sex. Until Terebinth Refuge opened in April of 2018, survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking did not have a dedicated shelter in the St. Cloud area.

Terebinth Refuge serves women 18 + as well as mothers with young children. We serve individuals and families mostly within the Central MN communities, but accept referrals from women in need from any area.

Many of the women we serve have been exploited since childhood, and have experienced trauma, homelessness, and abuse. All the women we serve have a history of commercial sexual exploitation, abuse, homelessness, and poverty. All women live below the poverty level.

Without intervention, many women who are trafficked or exploited have a higher chance of experiencing early death due to homicide, suicide, or drug overdose—they are often trapped in a life of exploitation and abuse, to support themselves and their children.

"I feel safe here. I can sleep without worrying about things happening."—RESIDENT

## Terebinth Refuge: Who We Are



**Our Mission:** Terebinth Refuge is a Christ-centered shelter and safe home that brings hope, healing services, and freedom to sexually exploited and trafficked women.

Our Vision: End sexual exploitation and trafficking.

#### Our guiding principles:

Christ-centered Holistic approach
Survivor leadership Individual respect & dignity
Trauma-informed Culturally informed
Responsible stewardship Community partnerships

Terebinth Refuge is rooted in Christ-centered values as an organization. We provide a nurturing and accepting environment in which women can heal, rebuild their lives, and grow in their faith, if they choose. However, we do not require participation in faith-based programs as a condition of shelter or services. We value the uniqueness of each woman in her cultural, ethnic, and religious identity, and provide each woman with individual opportunities for self-advocacy and personal growth.

## Healing Care

As a shelter for hope and healing, Terebinth Refuge provides safe, short-term emergency shelter, longer-term transitional housing, and a variety of on-site services to help women attain their individual goals toward recovery and independence.

Through our holistic and innovative program design, we eliminate barriers to receiving care by bringing many services directly to residents during their stay.

#### Four Areas of Care

**BODY** - Physical wellness (Safe Shelter and Transitional Housing, Registered Nurse, Health and Wellness programming)

**MIND** - Mental wellness (Mental Health & Chemical Dependency services, Trauma Therapies, Support Groups)

**SOUL** - Self-discovery (Employment readiness/social enterprise, education, independent life skills, recreation & leisure activities)

**SPIRIT** - Faith discovery (mentors, education, pastoral care, bible study) which is optional without requirement or force.





Due to the trauma experienced by our residents, and the operation of emergency shelter, Terebinth Refuge provides 24/7 care delivered by staff who are specifically trained in trauma and exploitation.

Once women are physically safe and secure, they can begin to think about their needs. We provide access to in-house mental health and chemical dependency services, and physical health/wellness programming. As part of the healing process, women can develop skills such as budgeting, cooking, and self-care, and develop a career plan.

#### Programs and services include:

Safe Shelter and Housing
Chemical Dependency Services
Health & Wellness Programming
Legal Aid (trafficking specific)
Financial Education
Education Services
Equine Therapy & Dog Therapy
Spiritual guidance (optional)

Medical & Mental Health Referrals Survivor-led Support Groups Case Management Employment Readiness Program Social Enterprise/Store Crisis Counseling Independent Living Skills On-site Registered Nurse

We are partially funded by the Department of Human Services Safe Harbor Program, and we collaborate with many different funders, donors, and organizations throughout the community to provide the best possible outcomes for the women and children in our programs.

# You can help women seeking freedom and healing.

**Pray** for our residents, and our leadership.

Give a financial donation securely online or by check.

**Join** or enroll in our Circle Of Hope commit to making an annual gift of \$1,200 (\$100/month) or more for a period of three years.

**Sponsor** our annual RISE Breakfast or another fundraiser to support our ministry.

**Volunteer** with us! See our website for details.

**Donate** household items for our residents. Find a list of suggested items on our website.

*Invite* us to speak at your business, church or group.

**Share** our mission and website with others.

**Contact** us with opportunities for employment and affordable housing for women in our home.

**Provide** space for gatherings and special events.

**Subscribe** to our newsletter on the website to get updates and important news.

Like us and share posts on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEREBINTH (OAK) TREE

Throughout the Old Testament, Terebinth and Oak are referred to and interchanged. Terebinth trees develop a large deep root system and are highly resilient and therefore remain green in years of drought. Because of its large size and great shade, terebinth trees were places of significance, well known landmarks in the scriptures, also seen as a resting place of shelter. The word used in Isaiah 61:3 which is often translated "ram" as its root, refers to strength and power and can also mean "pillar" referring to a strong leader.

"That they may be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." — Isaiah 61:3